

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004383

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-26 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 29-32 received by this Authority on 02.02.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1-13 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 1-28 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004383

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	29-32	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	29-32	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	29-32	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>The inventions that are set forth in claims 29 to 32 involve an inventive step in relation to the documents that are cited in the international search report.</p> <p>Documents 1 to 3 do not disclose or suggest a "transfer control table for storing transfer schedules that express the relationships between the substrate transfer timing and the aforementioned modules which said substrates are being transferred to or from, said transfer control table being configured from two-dimensional tables that comprise a time axis, which establishes the transfer timing for implementing operations to transport the aforementioned substrates at prescribed intervals, and a transfer flow axis, which arranges the aforementioned modules that the aforementioned substrates are being transferred to or from." Meanwhile, as a result of the feature in question, the present inventions exhibit a prominent effect whereby it is possible to determine conditions for increasing the processing throughput by means of extremely simple graphic operations that are carried out on a display.</p>			